

MEET MICHAEL SLEASMAN

At the end of March, the Center welcomed a new Managing Director and Research Scholar, Michael Sleasman, MDiv, Ph.D. (Candidate). Michael has been a part of the Trinity community for a number of years, as he and his wife Cindy each completed their respective Masters Degrees in the Divinity School. Michael joins us as he nears the completion of his Ph.D. in Theological Studies this summer at TEDS with a dissertation in theological ethics, entitled: On Visions and Virtue: A Theological Proposal for a Spesiential Virtue Theory, is a theological examination of eschatological hope in light of virtue theory.

Michael has served as an adjunct instructor and online course tutor at the college and graduate level of both Trinity International University (for the College and Divinity School extension program) and Wheaton College in the areas of philosophy, theology and ethics. His particular area of specialization is technological (especially computer and cyber-technology) ethics.

He has co-edited and contributed several essays to the recently published volume *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*, edited by Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Charles A. Anderson and Michael J. Sleasman (Baker Academic, 2007). In addition, he has written a number of book reviews for various journals, including *Reviews in Religion and Theology and Ethics & Medicine: an International Journal of Bioethics*, and is currently developing a website devoted to cultural agency at www.everydaytheology.org. He is currently writing two essays, "Christianity and the New Technologies" and "Post-Conservative Theology," to appear in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* (Blackwell).



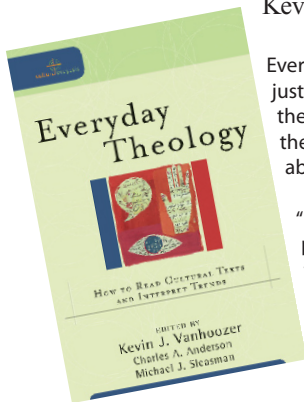
Alongside the continual evaluation and improvement of our online resources (www.cbhd.org and www.bioethics.com), our Director, C. Ben Mitchell and Michael are working closely to cultivate the Center's research agenda and impact. Ongoing projects include the development of a resource room housed at the Center's facilities to encourage relations with Trinity students and the completion of several Center initiated book projects authored by Darryl Charles, Robert Orr, and David Gushee through our ongoing relationship with Eerdmans publishing. Another project in the development phase is a Fall Consultation on an emerging biotech issue. Stay tuned for emerging details on this exciting new venture.

Michael looks forward to meeting and serving the CBHD constituency. If he can be of service to you on behalf of the Center or if you would like to take the time to introduce yourself, please feel free to contact him at msleasman@cbhd.org.

FROM THE CENTER'S STAFF

Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends

Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Charles A. Anderson & Michael J. Sleasman



Everyday theology is the reflective and practical task of living each day as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. In other words, theology is not just for Sundays, and it's not just for professional theologians. Everyday Theology teaches all Christians how to get the theological lay of the land. It enables them to become more conscious of the culture they inhabit every day so that they can understand how it affects them and how they can affect it. If theology is the ministry of the Word to the world, everyday theologians need to know something about that world, and Everyday Theology shows them how to understand their culture and make an impact on it.

"I am one of those Christians who have theological questions about Eminem, MySpace, grocery stores, and the like. So I am very pleased that we now have this book of stimulating and important reflections on such matters. These authors demonstrate how to think theologically about popular culture."--Richard J. Mouw, president and professor of Christian philosophy, Fuller Seminary

"Kevin Vanhoozer, Charles Anderson, and Michael Sleasman bring together a bright team of culture readers . . . They are pioneers, I hope, of a new era among faithful people in constructive, discerning, and loving engagement rather than reactive, superficial, and judgmental antagonism toward our culture."--Brian McLaren, AUTHOR

Biotechnology and the Human Good

C. Ben Mitchell, Edmund D. Pellegrino, Jean Bethke Elshtain, John F. Kilner, and Scott B. Rae

Some of humankind's greatest tools have been forged in the research laboratory. Who could argue that medical advances like antibiotics, blood transfusions, and pacemakers have not improved the quality of people's lives? But with each new technological breakthrough comes an array of consequences, at once predicted and unpredictable, beneficial and hazardous.

Outcry over recent developments in the reproductive and genetic sciences has revealed deep fissures in society's perception of biotechnical progress. Many are concerned that reckless technological development, driven by consumerist impulses and greedy entrepreneurialism, has the potential to radically shift the human condition—and not for the greater good. *Biotechnology and the Human Good* builds a case for a stewardship deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian theism to responsibly interpret and assess new technologies in a way that answers this concern.

"Moves the ethical debate over biotechnology to a new level. *Biotechnology and the Human Good* offers a critical analysis and constructive engagement that is informed, astute, and elegant. A must-read for anyone concerned about the prospect of a posthuman future." Brent Waters, GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"United by their conviction that traditional Christianity must respond to the latest conundrums of biomedical research, the authors of *Biotechnology and the Human Good* write with clarity and passion." Ronald Cole-Turner, PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

